machines, the prices are approved by the Airport Director of the concerned Airport and displayed in the licensed premises at prominent location. As and when complaints of over-charging are received, the same are attended to at the respective airport promotly.

Enhancing seat capacity on International Routes

1233. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that while the availability of seats on the main routes is slowly decreasing, Government's open sky policy to permit more international airlines to operate on these sectors has failed to take off;

(b) whether it is a fact that while there is a poor response from the US and Europe carriers, others are willing to increase their flights on these routes; and

(c) if so, the details of plan to increase its capacity on international flights?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) No, Sir. Availability of seats in Winter, 2002 (November, 2002-April, 2003) has gone up by 5324 seats per week against the corresponding period of the previous year. Besides additional 20,215 seats per week have been deployed by various foreign airlines so far taking advantage of the "open sky policy" adopted by the Government of India.

(b) and (c) During the "Open sky policy", two European carriers, namely Lufthansa Airlines and Virgin Atlantic have mounted additional flights so far on Frankfurt-Bangalore and London-Delhi sector respectively. Airlines from other regions such as Singapore Airlines, Malayasia Airlines, Emirates, Sri Lankan Airlines and South African Airways also operated additional flights as part of the open sky policy.

Separate company for ground handling operations by AI

1234. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA:
SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNITA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to create a separate subsidiary of Air India for its ground handling operations;